

Chester, PA — Today, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7) toured Delaware County's Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired to highlight his support for vocational rehabilitation programs.

"People with developmental disabilities should be measured by what they can do, not by what they can't," noted Joe. "I applaud the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired for working to make that a reality every day."

The Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired (CBVI), also known as the Delaware County Branch of the Pennsylvania Association for the Blind, helps individuals in the Greater Delaware Valley area prevent, prepare for, and adapt to vision loss in order to achieve independence. In addition to providing rehabilitation training, CVBI also trains individuals on computer and access technology. Through its work it assists visually impaired individuals with employment services, social services, low vision services, psychological services, support, transportation, information, and community education.

"For years, people with disabilities were seen as ones who needed only our charity, and this belief yielded to a lack of opportunity and prejudice of people with physical disabilities," added Joe. "But thanks to organizations like CVBI, America is beginning to create opportunity and inclusion for all people with disabilities."

In Congress, Congressman Sestak is a member of the Education and Labor Committee, where he has advocated for education and training programs for all, including vocational rehabilitation programs for individuals with disabilities. He recently held two education summits to provide an opportunity for education stakeholders in the 7th Congressional district to discuss key educational issues with policy makers and education experts. The first summit consisted of panel discussions on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Special Education, led by the Honorable George Miller, Chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, and the Honorable Terrell Halaska, Assistant Secretary of Education. The second summit explored the challenges facing our Higher Education system and Advanced Training programs and included Congressman Rubén Hinojosa, the Chairman of the US House Subcommittee on Higher Education, Lifelong Learning and Competitiveness as a guest panelist. Congressman Sestak has also signed on as a major sponsor of H.R. 627, the Keep our PACT Act, which would fully-fund No Child Left Behind and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by 2014.

Congressman Sestak's support also extends to his business cards. He is the only Member of Congress whose business card is also printed in Braille. This summer he will be holding a

summit with the Delaware County Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired to highlight services for seniors who are visually impaired.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. □ According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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